

## TWO MILES NORTH PERONNE ENGLISH GO ACROSS CANAL

At Haut-Allaines—Rumaucourt, Inchy-en-Artois, Demicourt, Hermies and Croix-du-Bac Captured—Ninety-seven Divisions Thrown Into Conflict by Germans Since Aug. 8.

London, Sept. 4.—(1 p.m.)—British troops have crossed the Canal Du Nord at Haut-Allaines, just north of Peronne, it was learned today by the International News Service.

Since Aug. 8 the Germans have thrown ninety-seven divisions into the battle, it is estimated. (Ninety-seven divisions would normally be 1,164,000 men, but it is understood that the Germans have been compelled to reduce the size of their divisions since the allied offensive began, owing to losses).

### Rumaucourt Captured.

London, Sept. 4.—(1 p.m.)—(A. P.)—The British have secured a hold on the west bank of the Canal Du Nord by taking Rumaucourt, to the north of Sains-lez-Marquion, according to advices from the battle front today. Further south along the canal they are reported to have captured Inchy-en-Artois, Demicourt, to the east of Doignies, and Hermies, three miles northeast of Bertincourt. Near the Somme the British, the advices state, have crossed the canal at Haut-Allaines, slightly more than two miles north of Peronne. From Hermies southward the British line is indicated as running to the west of Ruyaulcourt, a mile and a half east of Bertincourt.

Midway between Nieppe and Sailly, in the Lys salient, the British have captured the village of Croix-du-Bac.

## ONLY TWO AMERICAN GIRLS IN SECTOR

Young Chattanooga Soldier Writes Home That He Is Safe and Well.

P. D. Crawford has received a letter from his son Tullius T. Crawford, "somewhere in France," in which he states that he is safe and well. He has seen some service since his arrival at the front. He went over with Gen. Pershing and is now attached to the French army as a member of the motor machine regiment, signal corps. He says there are no American soldiers and but two American girls, Red Cross nurses, in his sector.

The young man says the French call him "Pubby voo un peach" which he means that he can talk French fluently but not much. He says he takes every opportunity to go to the hospital in order to meet and talk with the American girls.

Young Crawford was a mechanic connected with Hart's garage, before enlisting in the army.

## FIENDISH ATROCITIES BY FINNISH REBELS

London, Sept. 4.—Stories of fiendish atrocities by a band of Finnish rebels are told in the London Sketch by an Englishman who has just returned from Finland.

During March and April there were about 1500 rebels at Tammerfors, who were determined to kill every man, woman and child above 8 years of age who did not belong to or join their creed.

"A farmer's whole family was nailed by hands and tongues to a table and left there until they died. A clergyman had his eyes gouged out and was then crucified to the wall of his church and the Bible nailed to his chest."

"I saw several times arrested and prodded with bayonets these fanatics. The government forces finally succeeded in seizing and afterwards killed the fiends."

## EARLY DEBACLE NOT FORECAST IN LONDON

Tremendous Events on Battle Front Followed With Breathless Eagerness by Nation.

London, Sept. 4.—The progress of tremendous events on the battle front in France is being followed with almost breathless eagerness by the whole British nation. The most significant feature of Tuesday's developments was that the German attack, which had been expected to be a breakthrough, failed to materialize. The failure of the enemy to make such an attempt against the line which Field Marshal Haig's army were able to press the advance. Informed observers, however, continue to believe that the German attack, which they will pull himself together.

Disastrous as the blow already has been to the German position, and seriously as the German position is endangered, experts here are not expressing anticipation of an early debacle, and admit the probability of some defense being organized behind the enemy lines. Some German prisoners taken in the battle talk confidently of the impending arrival of a great reserve army under Gen. Von Mackensen, who will turn the tables on the allied forces. Whatever the future may hold, the actual situation in regard to containing the possibility of the complete abandonment of the entire northern German front, including the Flanders coast.

While featuring the dramatic developments on the British front, commentators do not neglect to emphasize the great importance of the operations on the southern end of the battle line, where the French and Americans are holding against large enemy forces and making progress. Recognition equally is given to the ineluctable bearing on the entire situation of the presence of the rapidly moving American army.

## ON LAST LAP AND CLOSE TO WINNING POST

London, via Montreal, Sept. 4.—Paris newspapers today print the following semi-official statement:

"The hour seems close at hand when the superb efforts of the allies will begin to bear fruit. One of our great chiefs said yesterday: 'We are on the last lap and close to the winning post.'"

## Huns Yet Hold Lens

British Patrols, However, in Western Part of Coal Mining City.

London, Sept. 4.—Information from the front today is that the coal mining city of Lens is still mainly in German hands. British patrols, however, are reported to be in the western portion of the town.

There were widespread reports yesterday that Lens had been evacuated by the Germans and occupied by the British. These reports emanated from an authoritative source in London and were generally regarded as correct until receipt of last night's official British communication which failed to confirm them.

## BURN VILLAGES IN THEIR FLIGHT

Retreat of Huns Marked by Conflagrations and Explosions of Munitions.

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## GERMANS FLEE ON CANAL DU NORD

More Prisoners Taken—Enemy Fighting Hard to Hold Waterway.

### BERLIN ADMITS ADVANCE

Of British in Lys Salient.

Moeuvres Reported in Allies' Hands.

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